

MINUTES

**Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Task Force
Thursday April 16, 2009
Council Chambers
Municipal Building
93 Cottage Street**

I. Call to Order at 8:30 AM

Members present: Chair Paul Paradis, Vice-Chair Chris Fogg; Secretary Anne Krieg; Police Chief Nate Young; Harbormaster Charlie Phippen; Greg Veilleux; Fred Cook; Mary Opdyke; Greg Gordon; George Seavey

II. EXCUSED ABSENCES

Bob Bahr was excused by a motion from Phippen with a second from Veilleux

III. Minutes were tabled by a motion from Cook/ and a second from Phippen.

- A. January 22, 2009 distributed**
- B. February 5, 2009 distributed**
- C. March 5, 2009 will be distributed next time**

IV. The agenda was adopted on a motion from Young with a second from Fogg.

V. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Report from Paul Paradis on conversation with George Kidder regarding from MDI Bio Lab on water quality testing.**

Paradis indicated that he had not heard from George Kidder. Opdyke and Krieg will follow up.

- B. Report from Paul Paradis on change in Council reporting schedule from every 8 weeks to as needed.**

This was voted upon at the Council meeting.

- C. Report from Chris Fogg and Chief Nate Young on Downtown Drop-off implementation prior to July 1, 2009.**

May 14th will be another second drop off point test. Young will set up cones with signs in them. Fogg will staff the area. There are no known other issues

- D. Update from Anne Krieg on Recycling Bin project**

Krieg will fill out the forms this week. These bins will augment the Chamber program.

Gordon and Powers noted the specification might be more expensive than what the industry can support. Krieg indicated that she will ask for a number up to 8 bins and is grateful for any number of bins that can be provided.

Chamber will keep the 3 recycle bins in place. Fogg expressed concern the Town will not be emptying the bins and questioned why it could not be done.

Donations of the proceeds were offered by Gordon; this is organized elsewhere.

Young added the comment that this is not an issue; past practice has been that people take care of them without town intervention or oversight.

Paradis indicated if there is an issue the Council will address it.

VI. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Continue discussion with Ocean Properties on future plans for West Street and service to Cruise Ship tenders and passengers.

They were not present.

B. Bus and idling issues – Guest speaker Scott Riccio, owner of Northeast Bus Co.

Riccio introduced himself to the group. He passed out a document entitled “Regeneration”.

He explained the function of the mechanical needs that explain why idling happens.

He also circulated a document with a title page noted as “Trucks have come a long way over the years”.

He reviewed the EPA emissions requirements. The new requirements took place in 2007 for new trucks.

He circulated an electronic communication from Robert Cusick of Cummins Northeast dated March 19, 2009 and an article from the March 2009 issue of Heavy Duty Trucking called “Diesel Particulate Filters”.

New emissions requirements need new technologies was noted by Powers and this adds costs to the industry.

Young said it is important that the local leadership and the general public understand this new information. A zero idling rule may not be necessary and may be harmful.

Riccio said the bus drivers have to pay their own tickets. He said he requires bus drivers to obey local laws. He did say 5 minutes was adequate for their needs.

Paradis offered that perhaps we could recommend the Council ask the Parking and Traffic Committee to review the idling requirements in light of this information.

Veilleux yielded the floor to Liz Weston of Acadia National Park who asked clarification questions on idling needs. She also asked about the size of the buses continuing to increase. If the Park reduced the size of the bus allowances, the impacts would be great on the industry. Riccio did note that the turning radius has improved greatly on buses. 45’ long coaches last about 10 years and have better quality than the smaller buses. They also offer a more comfortable ride. 80% of the buses manufactured are 45’ or longer.

Liz added that the crossing of yellow lines to get up the hill is an issue. Riccio responded that it's not any different than the challenges of urban driving. The drivers are well-trained.

Krieg moved to forward this information to the Council and offer the opportunity for a presentation. Young seconded the motion.

Riccio indicated that he would be happy to present information to the Council.

There are methods to the associations to disseminate information.

Gordon asked for clarification on what the rules for idling in ANP. Liz indicated the rules are posted; they ask for no unreasonable idling in general.

Wheelchair passengers have to use the engine to let off the passenger which may exceed the idling requirement.

All were in favor of the motion.

The group thanked Riccio for an excellent explanation.

C. Walking Map - Report from walking map sub-committee.

Krieg noted we are set to go for July 1st.

D. Where are we – items remaining to address.

The group discussed what has been completed on the list from November 24th 2008.

The group reviewed the Standard Operation Procedures. It is noted that the Council does not adopt the SOP so that should be removed from the list.

The signage and kiosk was discussed. Fogg reviewed what the Chamber will do until the fiscal year begins. Young asked what happens before July 1st. The drop off issue has been addressed. Staff will coordinate.

Cook asked if the Ferry Terminal can be approached about using their facility. Paradis indicated a meeting had occurred with them a year ago; the company is looking into it but had no plans. He indicated this is a private business decision. This will affect police and signage issues if they decide to accommodate the cruise industry. Paradis will follow up to see if anything has changed with the industry.

Powers indicated that the industry is looking into reducing congestion at choke points.

Follow-up items appear to be:

BAY FERRIES

SURVEYS

Gordon asked if more information can be disseminated to people. Residents and visitors may not understand what has been happening.

Paradis noted we issue a final report at the end of 2009 meeting. A list of accomplishments to Council is also in order.

Powers noted that the information should get to people for this season. The Chamber or staff should try to get the press to do a story for the 2009 season.

The group discussed how this should be accomplished. It was noted we should make the list of accomplishments and how the season will work, what is changed. The message is positive.

Paul lists the accomplishments and takes it to the Council.

Krieg said that what we need to send out is what is changed for 2009.

Fogg and Paradis will work on this effort.

E. Review of by-laws and any recommended changes to address future of Task Force.

Paradis posed the question of what happens next. This will be dealt with next meeting

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Powers reviewed the NOAA requirement for a dynamic management area when 3 or more right whales have been located. This area is affected for 15 days. The ship will have to reduce its speed dramatically. This will cause delays in arrival, processing of passengers and possible cancellation of visits. The ripple effect will be great. Communication and coordination need to be managed. She is attempting to form a working group with NOAA. No action requested from the task force.

She also reviewed changes to customs management.

VIII. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

IX. SET NEXT MEETING TIME, DATE AND PLACE

May 7, 2009 at 8:30 AM

X. ADJOURNMENT

Seavey made a motion with a second from Young to adjourn at 10:28 AM.

These minutes were prepared by Anne Krieg on July 7, 2009 for Task Force consideration at their meeting July 9, 2009.